Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 7 illustrates the overall architecture of a page layout system 124 according to an illustrative embodiment of the present invention. The system 124 takes as input a collection of images, which are clustered by events 116, 118, 120, 122 that are to be placed in an album. Being designed to work within the framework of an AAS, the system 124 receives the images that are sorted by event, duplicates and duds have been removed from the collection, and that each image has been assigned an emphasis value indicating the visual appeal of the image. The system produces a series of album pages 140, 142, 144, 146. There are two main system modules corresponding to the tasks outlined above. The Page Creator Module 126 is responsible for assigning each image to an album page. The page groupings created by this module are passed to the Image Placement Module 132, which positions the images on each individual page. Page layouts are specified in a textual form using an Extensible Markup Language (XML) format. Details about this format are available from: *World Wide Web Consortium, Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0, http://www.w3.org/xml, February 1998.* These textual descriptions are interpreted by a XML compiler 138 that creates composite images corresponding to each completed album page. Both the Page Creator Module 126 and Image Placement Module 132 make use of genetic algorithms and consists of their own separate genetic engines, 128 and 136 respectively. More particularly, the Page Creator Module 126 comprises a genetic engine 128 and a page evaluation module 130, both of which are implemented in software on a processor as is understood by those of ordinary skill in the art. The Image Placement Module 132 comprises its own genetic engine 136 and a layout evaluation module 134, also implemented in software. In an illustrative embodiment, the present invention is implemented using Visual C++ 6.0 running under Windows 95/98/NT. Although porting to other platforms is readily feasible, as well as implementation in other programming languages and operation on other platforms, understood by those of ordinary skill in the art.